28th March 1961]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) All Musilm pupils are eligible for half-fee remission in all classes subject to the usual income limits. In addition to this, some sections of the community, e.g., Labbai and Mappilla, are treated as backward communities for admission to educational institutions.

(*b*) No, Sir. No section of the Musilm community in the Kanyakumari district is treated as a backward community. But all Muslim girls are eligible for full fee concession while 15 per cent of the Musilm boys are eligible for half-fee remission.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Did the Government receive any representation from the Muslim community in Kanyakumari district that they should also be treated as ' Labbais ' for purposes of fee concession?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not have any information regarding representation from the Kanyakumari district.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : While personally I do not believe in backwardness or forwardness, is it a fact that the Muslims in Kanyakumari complain that in the old Kerala State they were enjoying these concessions and that now these are denied to them?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No; whatever concessions were available in the Travancore-Cochin State are being made available even now.

Tamil Encyclopaedia

* 208 *Q*.—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any financial assistance is given by the Government for the preparation and publication of Tamil Encyclopaedia;

(*b*) if so, the total amount so far given;

(*c*) whether any instance of misappropriation of funds has been brought to the notice of the Government; and

(*d*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) In 1948, the Tamil Valarchi Kazhagam proposed to bring out an Encyclopaedia in Tamil and sought assistance from the Government. A total grant of Rs. 4,31,552 has so far been sanctioned for the purpose. The last instalment was paid in 1957.

(*c*) Yes, Sir.

(*d*) The Kazhagam has taken necessary steps for recovering the amount from the party concerned.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know how much has been recovered by the Kazhagam?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : About one lakh of rupees has been recovered.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know what action has been taken against the person who misappropriated such a large amount?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The first step was to collect the money. That was the first step taken.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : In the report of the Public Accounts Committee it was stated that the person who misappropriated—the ex-treasurer—was arrested and legal proceedings were taken against him. At what stage does the matter stand?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : At a certain stage, it was dropped, because it was not possible criminally to proceed against him.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Since the Government gave four lakhs of rupees, why did not the Government take action against the Kazhagam for recovery of the amount?

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : The Finance Minister is also a member.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : After all, the Kazhagam has spent much more than this four lakhs of rupees. If it is a question of utilising the money, it has utilised more than four lakhs.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Was this four lakhs granted in one lump or in instalments? If in instalments at each stage, did Government take steps to verify whether the previous instalment was fully and satisfactorily utilised?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The difficulty was with reference to the audit report. The auditor was himself a party to this. That is why the statement was made up by the treasurer and it could not be detected in time. Some proceedings are pending against the auditor also.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : How is it that such a large sum of four lakhs of rupees was given without any condition being stipulated for its proper use? At least in future, will the Government take necessary steps to stipulate some such condition when they make grants?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Conditions were stipulated. As a matter of fact, the Kazhagam had to collect a certain amount before they could get a matching grant from the Government. The purpose was specified, i.e., the bringing out of the Tamil Encyclopaedia. Meanwhile, the treasurer misappropriated.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : When the Police went into the whole matter and ordered prosecution, what definite factors made the Government withdraw the proceedings?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The Government had nothing to do with the withdrawal of proceedings.